

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Legislative Committee

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

Meeting Date

**September 26, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Dean Gates - Chair
Ric Nelson
Terese Kashi
Rep. Charisse Millett
Akis Gialopsos
Art Delaune
Steve Lesko
Heidi Haas
Lexi Henning

Guests:

Erin Atwood

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Hannah Foreman

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:03 p.m.
ROLL CALL

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Dean Gates welcomed committee members and thanked them for attending to review the work plan.

Announcements and Good News

Patrick Reinhart announced that there will be a community forum Wednesday, October 2nd, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. as part of the Governor's Council meeting at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage. He encouraged members to invite people or families that have something to share with the Governor's Council either in person or on the toll-free teleconference number that will be set up. The topic of the forum will be on employment issues.

Dean Gates announced that he met with a woman from the National Deaf Academy who was in Alaska to promote the specialized clinical services they provide to the deaf and hard of hearing. Dean noted that they have a contract with the State of Alaska for clients to receive services.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Approval of the Agenda

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 29th, 2013 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Patrick Reinhart stated that there is no correspondence to report.

REPORTS

There were no reports given.

OLD BUSINESS

Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative Base Funding

Patrick Reinhart reported that the statistics, reports, and research that's been done on the success of the Behavioral Collaborative has been forwarded to the commissioner, the administration, and Senior and Disability Services. There was a meeting requesting that continued funding for the CBC be included in the Governor's budget. If the funding is granted, the Council will support it through the legislative process, and if it is not granted, the Council will have to make some decisions about how to advocate to get it put into the budget.

Ric Nelson stated that he and Teresa Holt are looking to set up a meeting with Mike Lesmann to talk about the CBC and to see if they'll support it in the Governor's budget.

Advocate for Employment First Legislation

Patrick Reinhart reported that Representative Millett and her staff have submitted the draft legislation to Legislative Research, and they are waiting to hear back. Patrick noted that the Employment First Summit got pushed back in light of the Trust's investment in the employment beneficiary focus area, but there will be a grant advisory meeting on the employment grant.

Akis Gialopsos reported that they will have the research complete and sent to the Council soon. He stated that the most difficult component of the research was to get data on educational curriculum from the larger schools. They will continue to try to get that data, but they didn't want to hold up the research any longer so that stakeholders at the forum will have time to digest the data and have enough facts and background data to have a good context to work on the draft. He noted that they are going to meet

their deadline of having a bill ready to go for Representative Millett to present to the caucus by the first week of November.

Advocate for State/Federal Regulations Regarding Restraint and Seclusion in Schools

Patrick Reinhardt reported that the restraint and seclusion draft legislation is making its way through the stakeholder's comment process. He noted that the Council is hosting a Midwest Academy on October 1st to go through the draft bill and all its features and provide feedback. Representative Millett confirmed that the goal is still to pre-file the bill.

Advocate for a State Match for Public and Community Transportation

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Alaska Mobility Coalition will have its annual meeting in Juneau October 22nd, 2013. The Governor's Council will support AMC in their advocacy.

Advocate for Alternative Routes for Students with Disabilities to Pass HSGQE and/or Receive a Diploma

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Education Committee is the lead on this issue. There has not been a lot of activity on this. Christie Reinhart attended the State Board of Education meeting in Nome and is expected to update the committee at the next meeting.

Provide Comment to the Anchorage Assembly on Accessible Taxi Ordinance

Dean Gates previously declared a conflict of interest regarding the Anchorage Assembly taxi ordinance and excused himself from this discussion.

Ric Nelson reported that the Assembly had a work session last Friday and introduced the ordinance to the city on Tuesday without public comment. The Assembly announced that they are going to schedule public comment for October 8th, at which time Patrick Reinhart and Ric Nelson will testify.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the taxi ordinance is getting some public attention. There have been newspaper articles in the Anchorage Daily News, and KTUU has done a story on accessible taxi services in Anchorage. Ric Nelson noted that KTUU wants to do another news report on accessible taxi cabs for people with disabilities the night before the Assembly meeting, and they would really like to interview a rural person who is either in a wheelchair or uses a service dog and has run into issues coming to Anchorage and getting an accessible taxi. Ric Nelson will call KTUU to clarify the “rural” descriptor.

Art Delaune commented that Fairbanks advocacy groups have been trying to get accessible taxi services for people with disabilities for some time and have developed a business plan, which was taken to the point where they are ready to seek funding. But because they don't have a coordinated transportation lead agency to seek funding from DOT, they have not been able to proceed. Art Delaune asked if the Governor's Council would be willing to support their advocacy to get accessible taxis in Fairbanks. Patrick Reinhart suggested modifying the committee's work plan to make it broader than just Anchorage.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approve FY14 Draft Work Plan

Dean Gates led the committee members through a review of the Legislative Committee's draft work plan, and the committee made changes as follows:

Priority 1: Establish base funding for the Complex Behavioral Collaborative (CBC).

- No changes

Priority 2: Advocate for Employment First legislation.

- Recommend changing priority to: “Pass effective Employment First legislation.”

Priority 3: Advocate for state and/or federal regulations regarding restraint and seclusion in schools.

- Recommend changing the priority to: “Establish effective state and/or federal legislation or regulations regarding restraint and seclusion in the schools.”

Priority 4: Advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE).

- Art Deluane **MOVED** to take HSGQE out of the priority and have it read: “Advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to obtain a high school diploma.” Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Priority 5: Advocate for a state match for public and community transportation.

- Lexi Henning **MOVED** to change out the word “advocate” and change it to: “Obtain state match for public and community transportation.” Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Priority 6: Advocate for accessible taxis in Anchorage.

- Lexi Henning **MOVED** to change the priority to: “Advocate for accessible taxis statewide.” Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Priority 6 – Activities

- Ric Nelson **MOVED** to add activity E: To provide support and advocacy to other community efforts to get accessible cabs. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Patrick Reinhart will make the changes to the work plan and will discuss the changes with the Education Committee on the priorities that they are the lead on.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the amended work plan. The motion **PASSED** with a unanimous vote.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Key Coalition Board Meeting, Anchorage - September 27, 2013
- Alaska Employment Initiative Advisory Board Meeting - October 1, 2013
- Governor's Council Meeting, Anchorage - October 2 – 4, 2013
(Community Forum October 2nd, evening)
- Trust Mini Advocacy Summits this fall:
October 1 – 2, 2013, Fairbanks Resource Center
October 8 – 9, 2013, Palmer Senior Center

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for October 24th, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.